

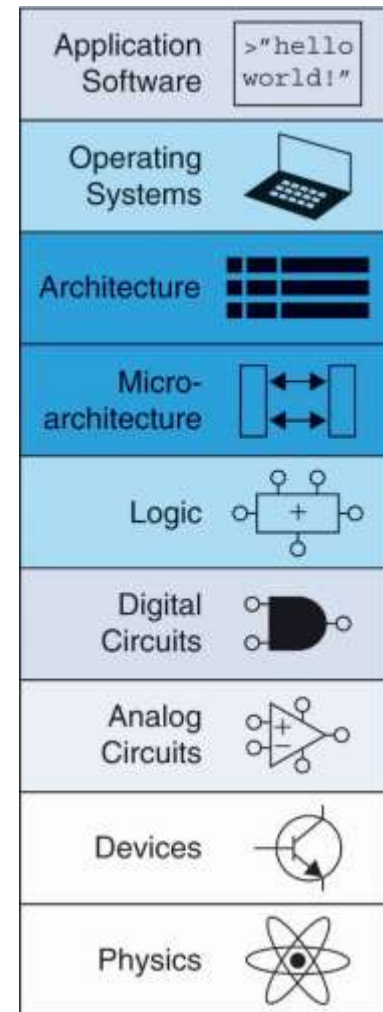
Digital Design & Computer Architecture

Sarah Harris & David Harris

Chapter 8: Memory Systems

Chapter 8 :: Topics

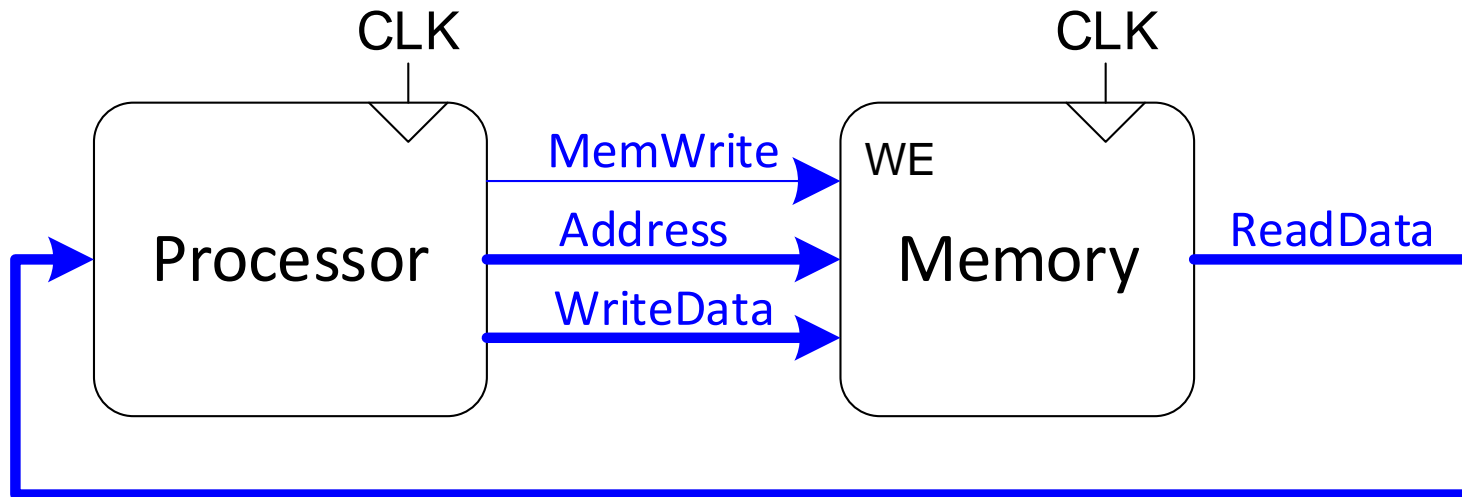
- Introduction
- Memory System Performance Analysis
- Caches
- Virtual Memory



Introduction

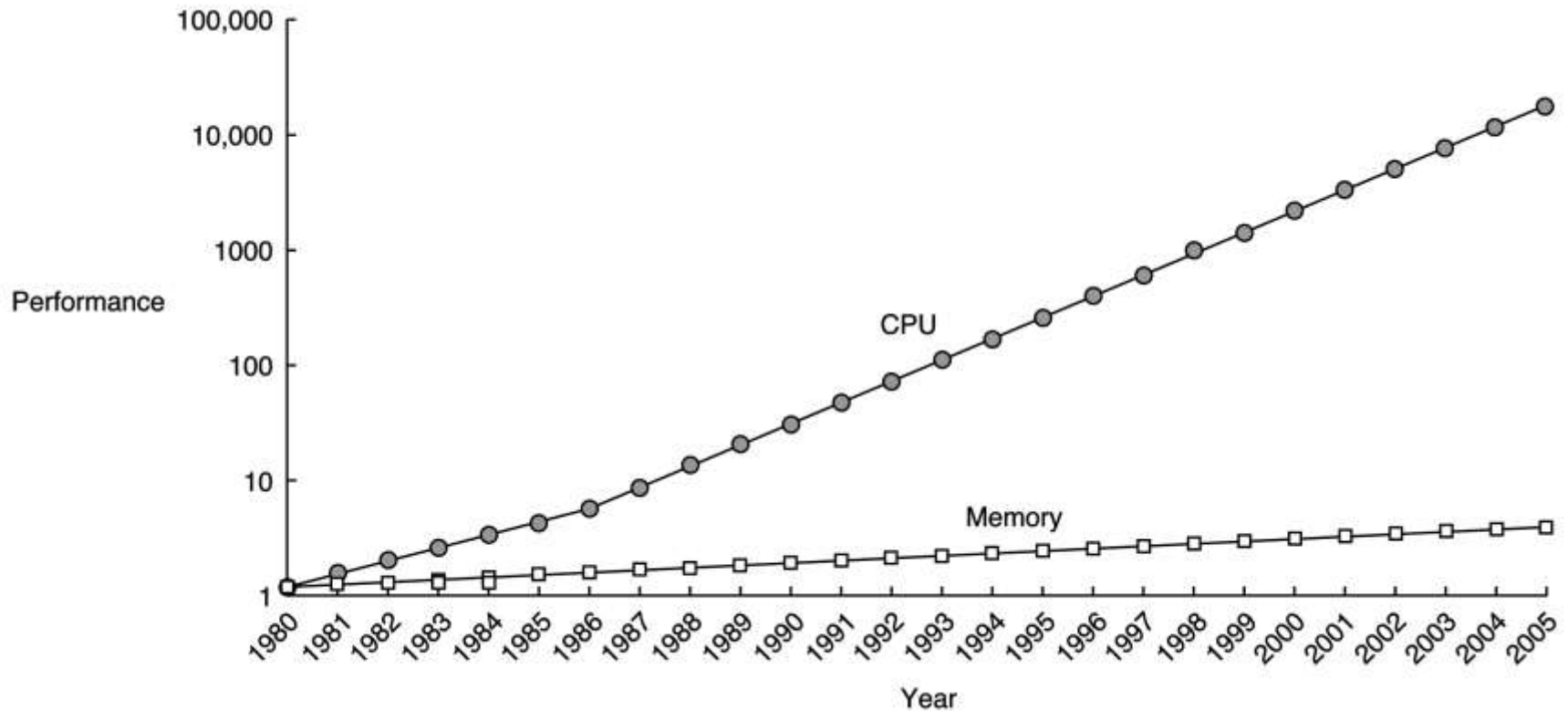
- **Computer performance depends on:**
 - **Processor** performance
 - **Memory system** performance

Processor / Memory Interface:



Processor-Memory Gap

- In prior chapters, assumed access memory in 1 clock cycle – but hasn't been true since the 1980's.

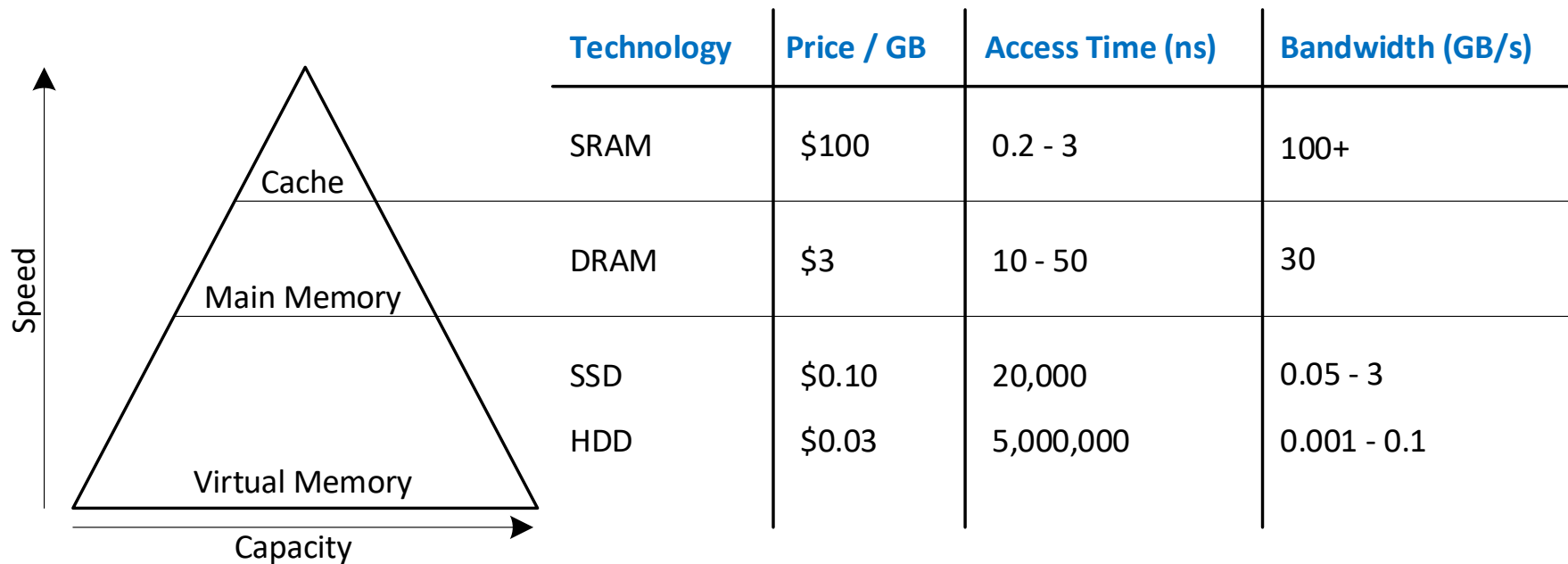
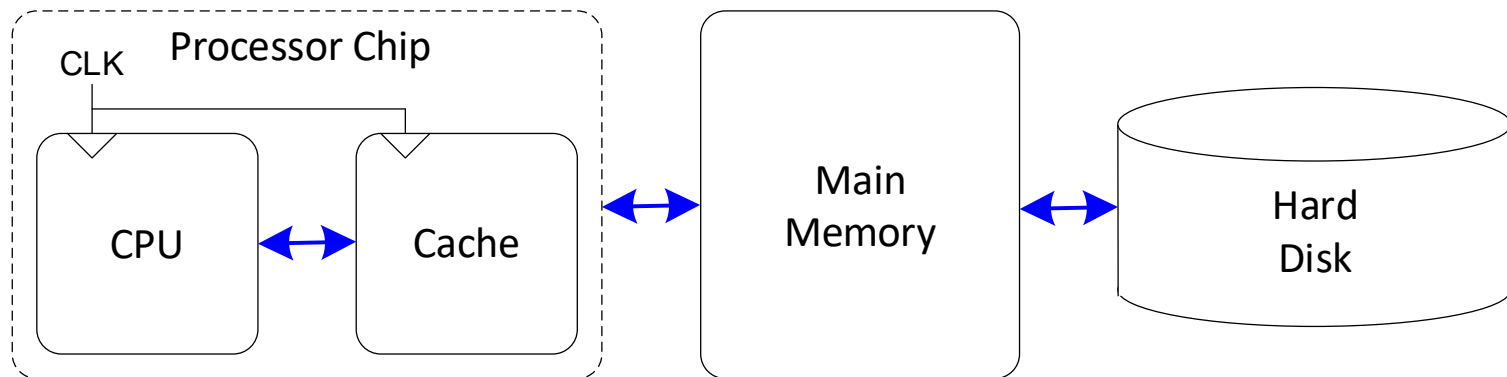


Memory System Challenge

- Make memory system appear as fast as processor
- Use hierarchy of memories
- Ideal memory:
 - **Fast**
 - **Cheap** (inexpensive)
 - **Large** (capacity)
- **But can only choose two!**



Memory Hierarchy



Locality

Exploit locality to make memory accesses fast:

- **Temporal Locality:**

- Locality in time
- If data used recently, likely to use it again soon
- **How to exploit:** keep recently accessed data in higher levels of memory hierarchy

- **Spatial Locality:**

- Locality in space
- If data used recently, likely to use nearby data soon
- **How to exploit:** when access data, bring nearby data into higher levels of memory hierarchy too

Chapter 8: Memory Systems

Memory Performance

Memory Performance

- **Hit:** data found in that level of memory hierarchy
- **Miss:** data not found (must go to next level)

Hit Rate $= \# \text{ hits} / \# \text{ memory accesses}$
 $= 1 - \text{Miss Rate}$

Miss Rate $= \# \text{ misses} / \# \text{ memory accesses}$
 $= 1 - \text{Hit Rate}$

- **Average memory access time (AMAT):** average time for processor to access data

AMAT $= t_{\text{cache}} + MR_{\text{cache}}[t_{MM} + MR_{MM}(t_{VM})]$

Memory Performance Example 1

- A program has 2,000 loads and stores
- 1,250 of these data values in cache
- Rest supplied by other levels of memory hierarchy
- What are the **cache hit and miss rates**?

Memory Performance Example 2

- Suppose processor has 2 levels of hierarchy: cache and main memory
- $t_{\text{cache}} = 1$ cycle, $t_{MM} = 100$ cycles
- What is the **AMAT** (average memory access time) of the program from Example 1?

Gene Amdahl, 1922 -

- **Amdahl's Law:** the effort spent increasing the performance of a subsystem is wasted unless the subsystem affects a large percentage of overall performance
- Co-founded 3 companies, including one called Amdahl Corporation in 1970

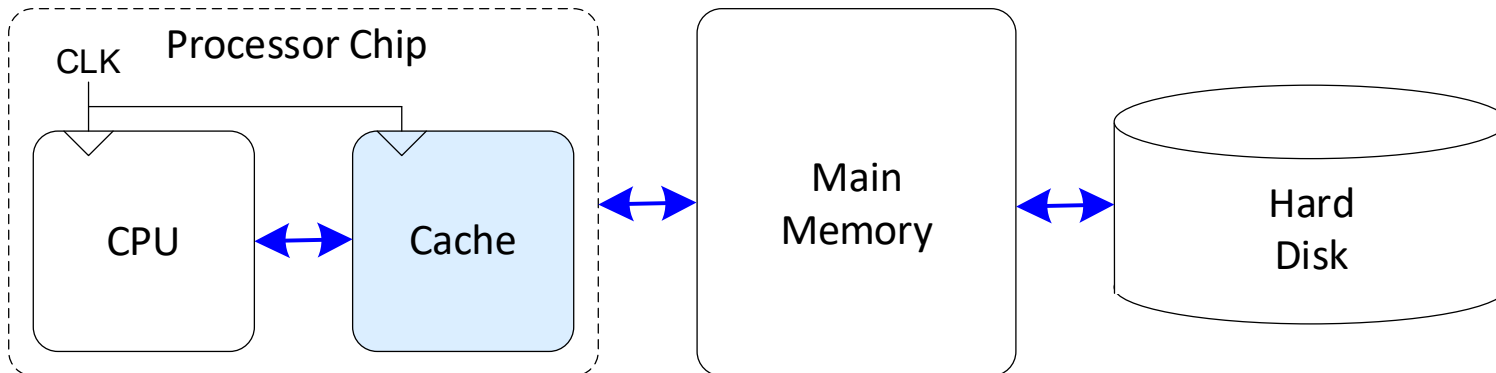


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Caches

Cache

- Highest level in memory hierarchy
- Fast (typically ~ 1 cycle access time)
- Ideally supplies most data to processor
- Usually holds most recently accessed data



Cache Design Questions

- What data is held in the cache?
- How is data found?
- What data is replaced?

We focus on data loads, but stores follow the same principles.

What data is held in the cache?

- Ideally, cache anticipates needed data and puts it in cache
- But impossible to predict future
- Use past to predict future – temporal and spatial locality:
 - **Temporal locality:** copy newly accessed data into cache
 - **Spatial locality:** copy neighboring data into cache too

Cache Terminology

- **Capacity (C):**
 - number of data bytes in cache
- **Block size (b):**
 - bytes of data brought into cache at once
- **Number of blocks ($B = C/b$):**
 - number of blocks in cache: $B = C/b$
- **Degree of associativity (N):**
 - number of blocks in a set
- **Number of sets ($S = B/N$):**
 - each memory address maps to exactly one cache set

How is data found?

- Cache organized into S sets
- Each memory address maps to exactly one set
- Caches categorized by # of blocks in a set:
 - **Direct mapped:** 1 block per set
 - **N -way set associative:** N blocks per set
 - **Fully associative:** all cache blocks in 1 set
- Examine each organization for a cache with:
 - Capacity ($C = 8$ words)
 - Block size ($b = 1$ word)
 - So, number of blocks ($B = 8$)

Example Cache Parameters

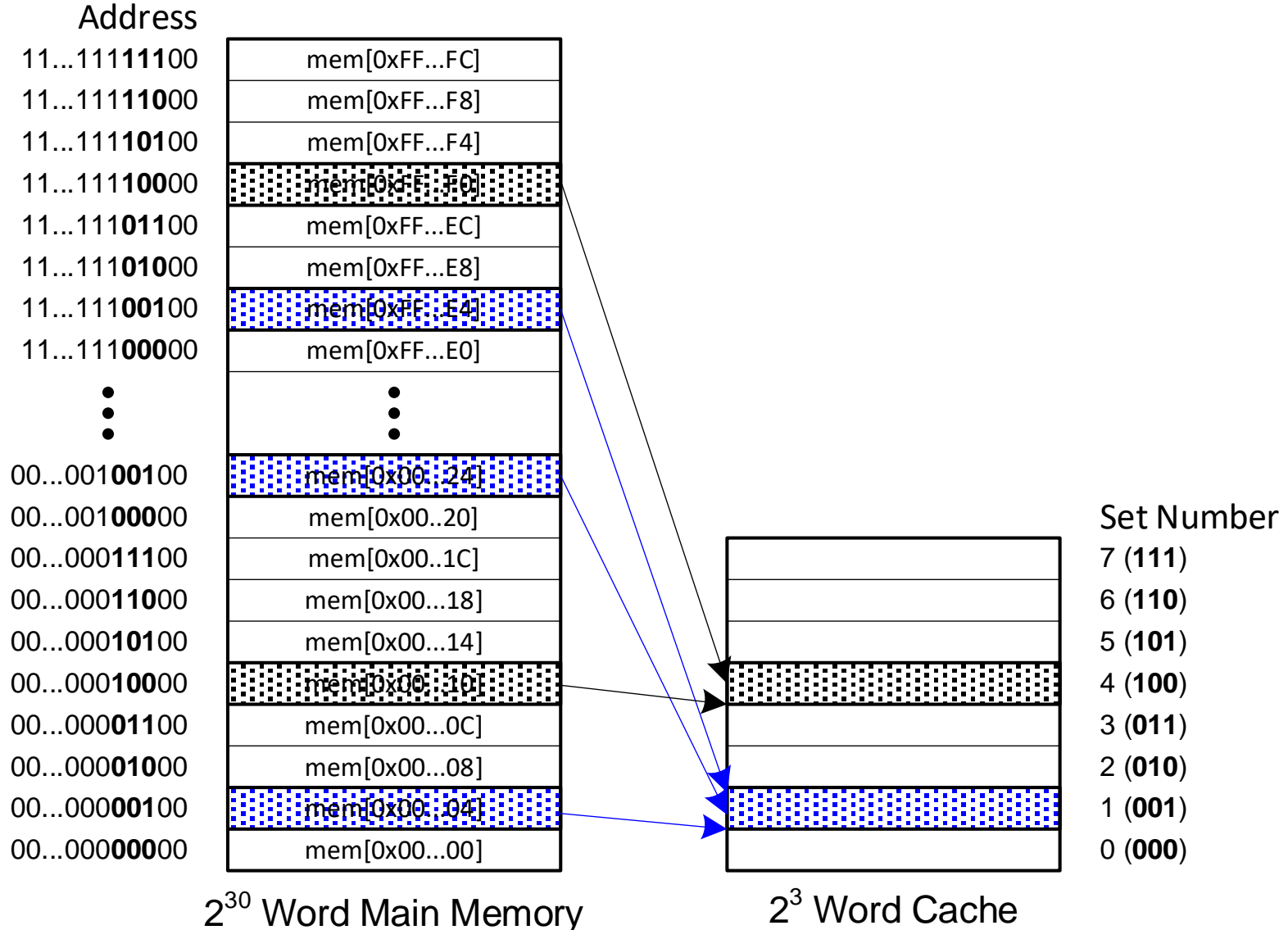
- $C = 8$ words (capacity)
- $b = 1$ word (block size)
- So, $B = 8$ (# of blocks)

Ridiculously small, but will illustrate organizations

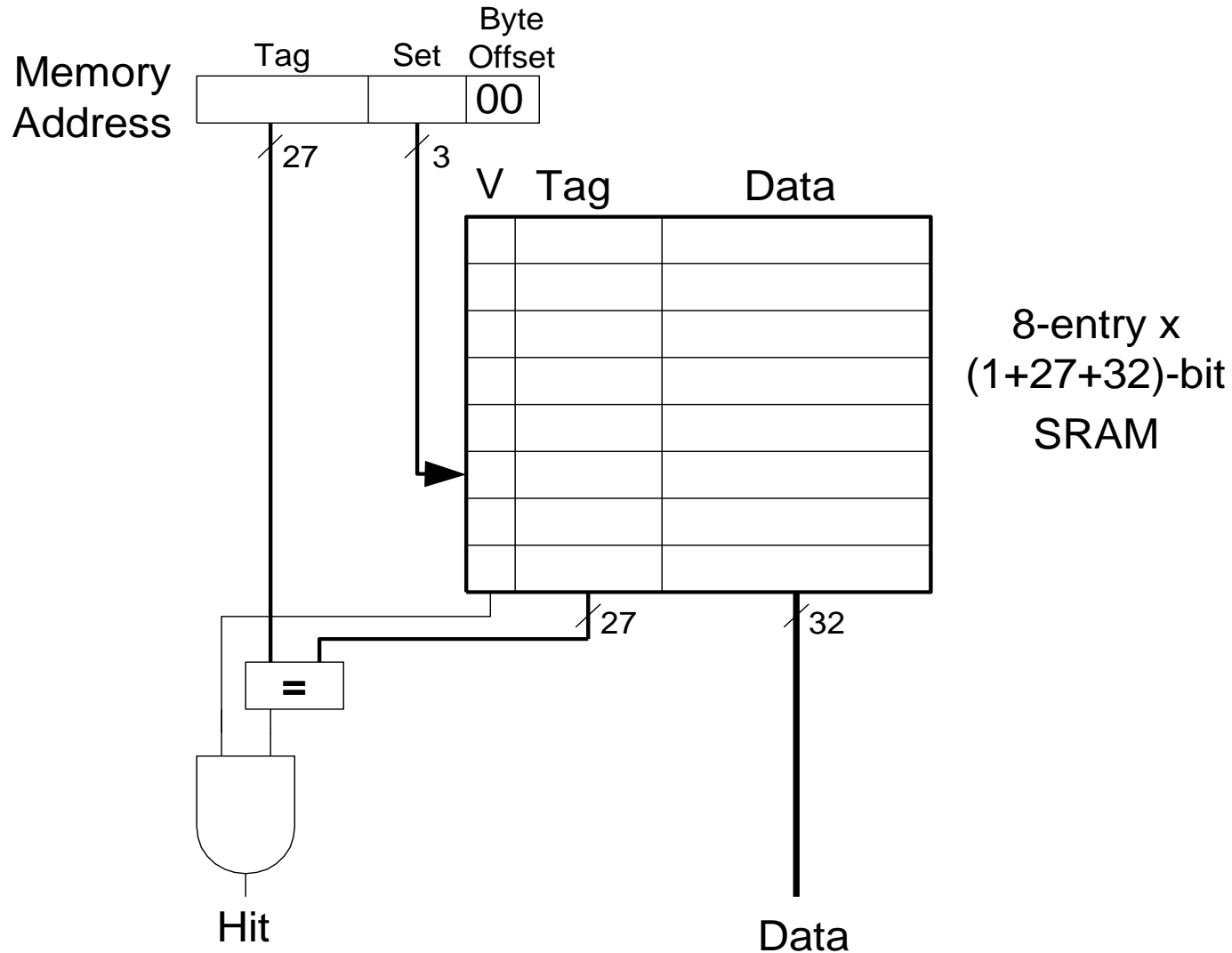
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Direct-Mapped Caches

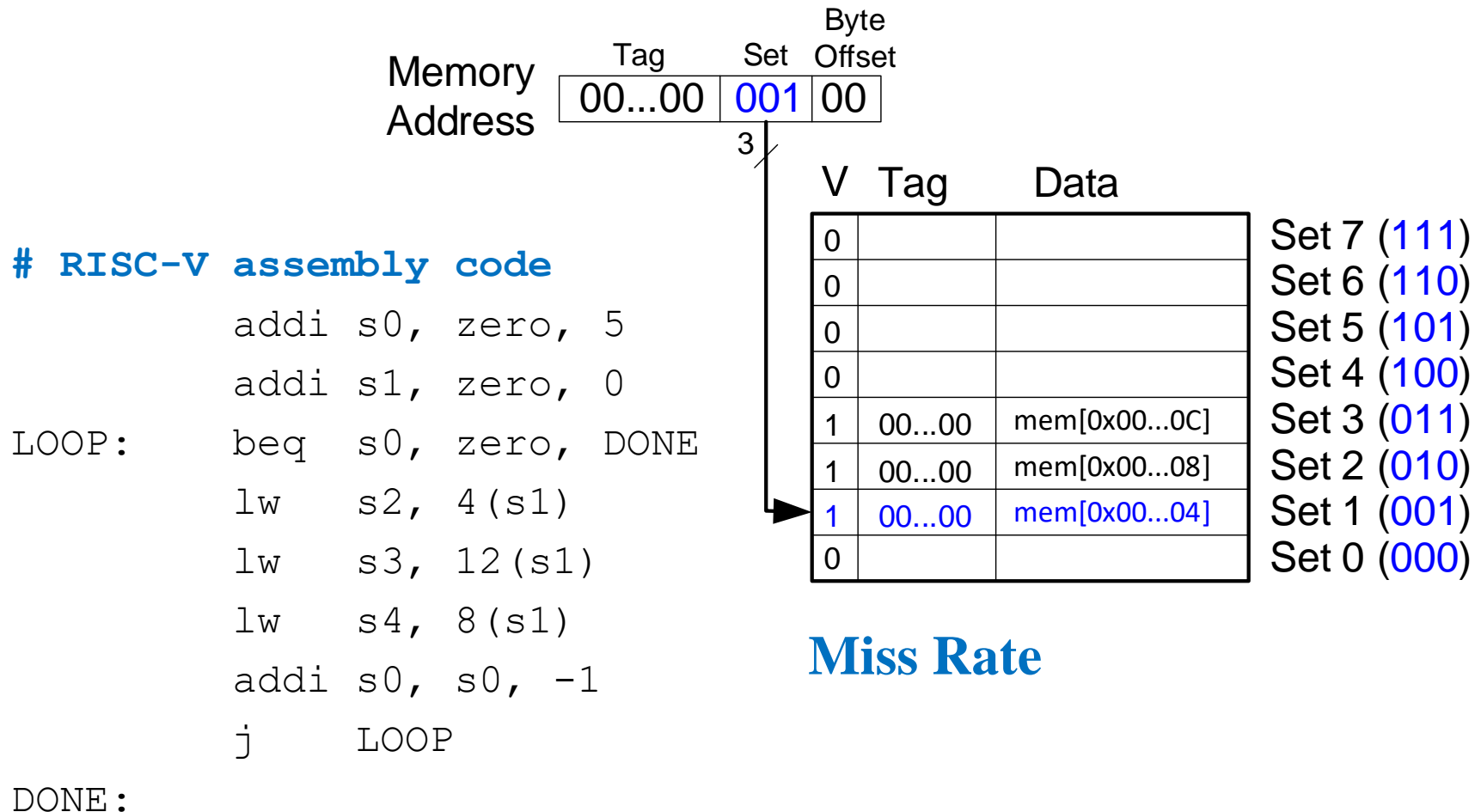
Direct Mapped Cache



Direct Mapped Cache Hardware



Direct Mapped Cache Performance



Direct Mapped Cache: Conflict Miss



RISC-V assembly code

```
    addi s0, zero, 5
    addi s1, zero, 0
LOOP: beq  s0, zero, DONE
      lw   s2, 0x4(s1)
      lw   s4, 0x24(s1)
      addi s0, s0, -1
      j    LOOP
DONE:
```

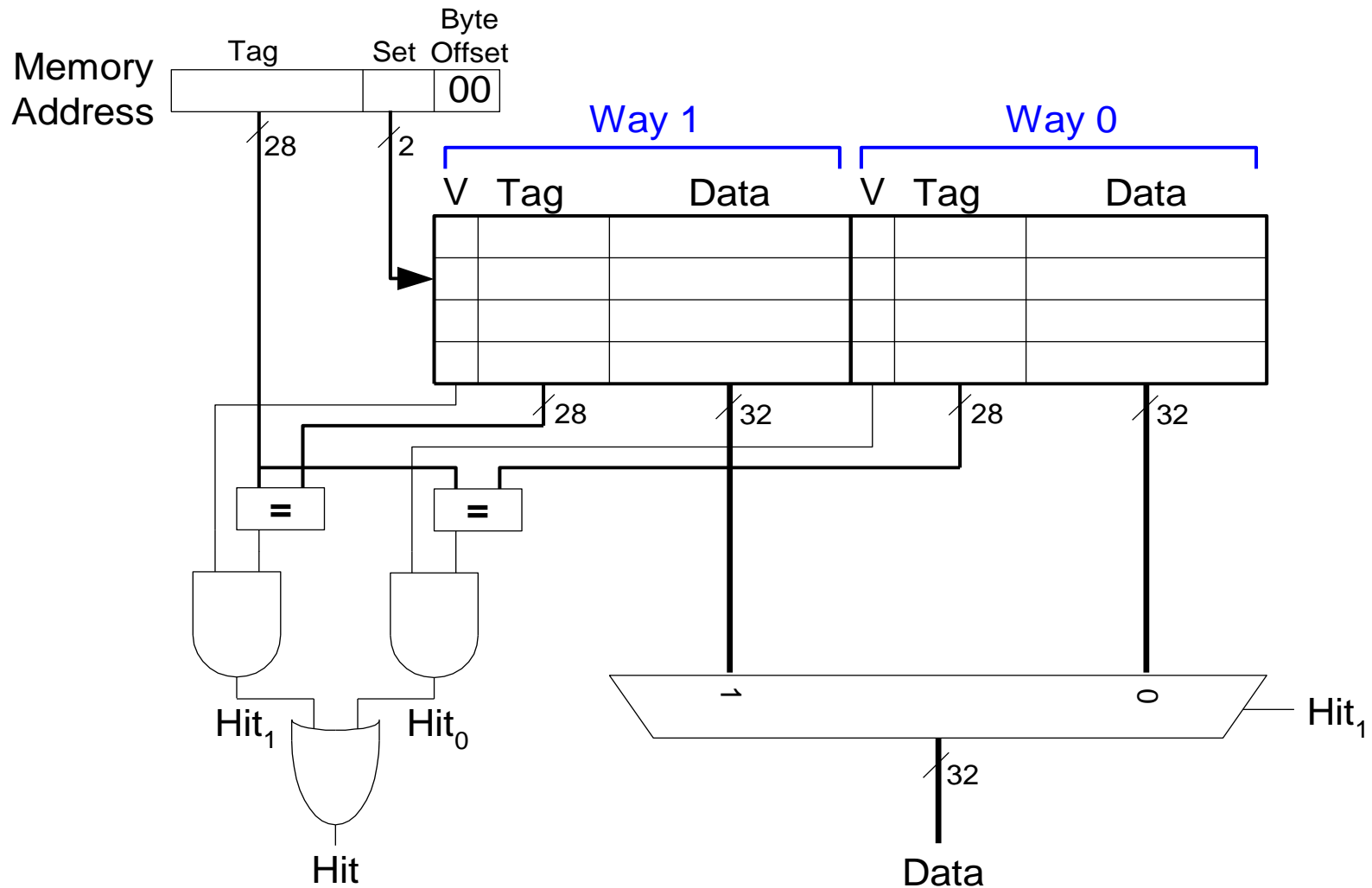
V	Tag	Data	
0			Set 7 (111)
0			Set 6 (110)
0			Set 5 (101)
0			Set 4 (100)
0			Set 3 (011)
0			Set 2 (010)
1	00...00	mem[0x00...04] mem[0x00...24]	Set 1 (001)
0			Set 0 (000)

Miss Rate

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Associative Caches

N-Way Set Associative Cache



N-Way Set Assoc. Cache Performance

RISC-V assembly code

```
    addi s0, zero, 5
    addi s1, zero, 0
LOOP: beq  s0, zero, DONE
      lw   s2, 0x4(s1)
      lw   s4, 0x24(s1)
      addi s0, s0, -1
      j    LOOP
DONE:
```

Miss Rate

Way 1			Way 0			
V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	
0			0			Set 3
0			0			Set 2
1	00...10	mem[0x00...24]	1	00...00	mem[0x00...04]	Set 1
0			0			Set 0

Fully Associative Cache

V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data

Reduces conflict misses

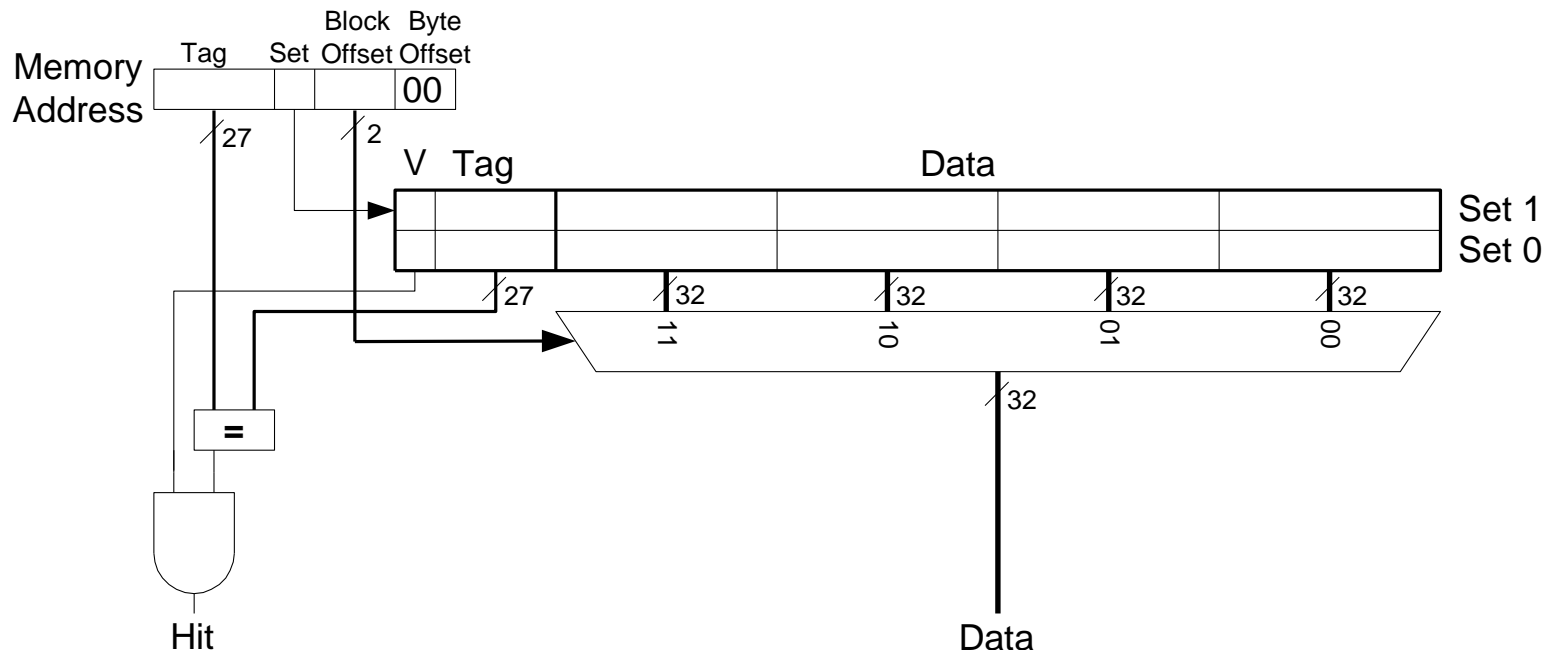
Expensive to build

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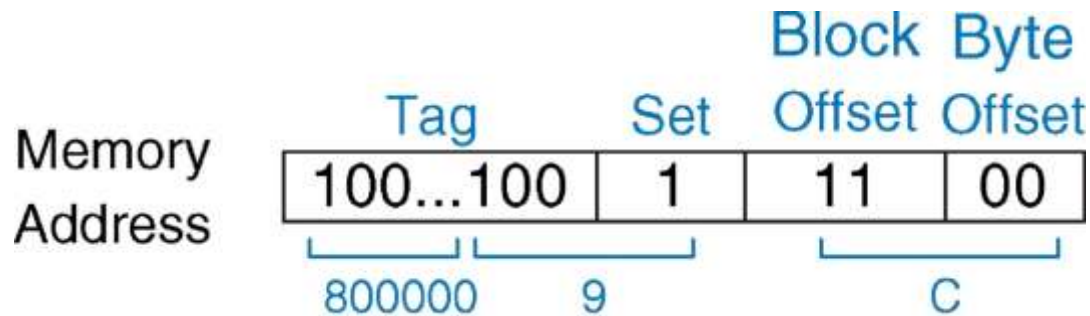
Spatial Locality

Spatial Locality

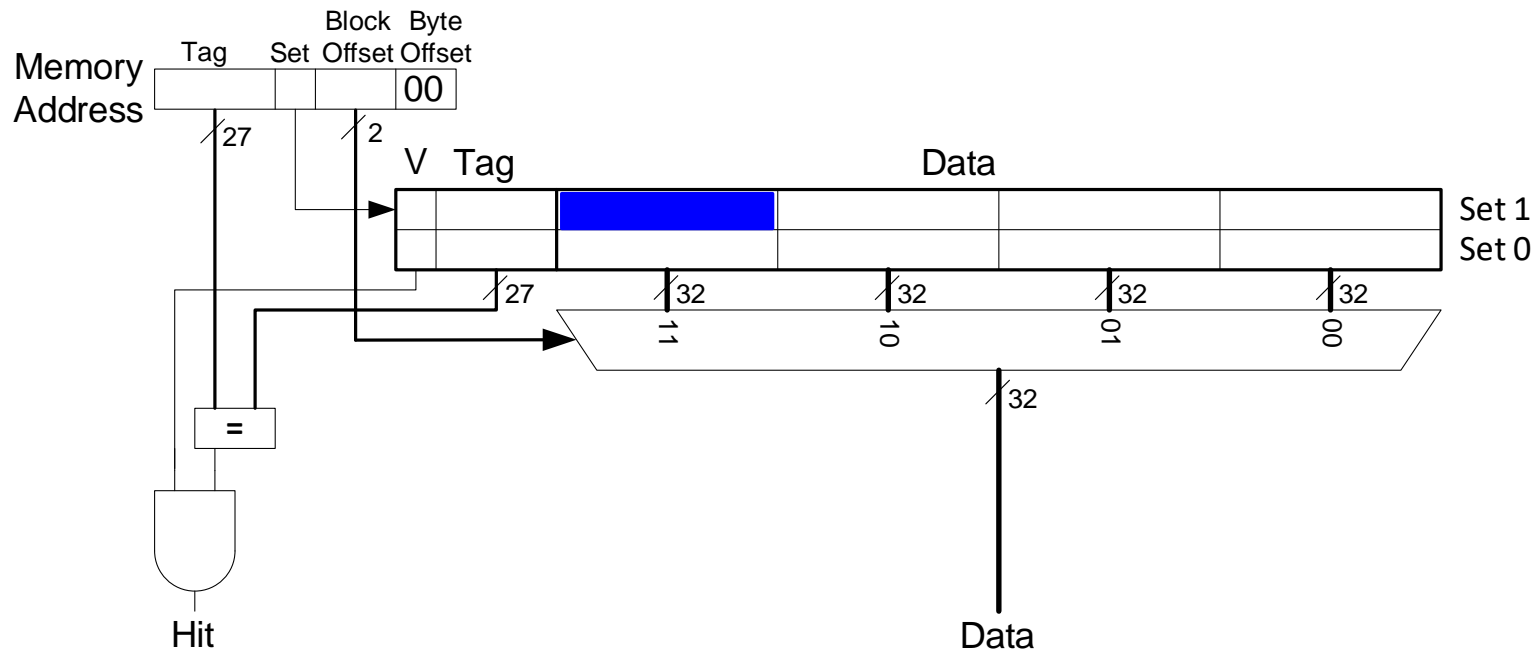
- Increase block size:
 - Block size, **$b = 4$ words**
 - $C = 8$ words
 - Direct mapped (1 block per set)
 - Number of blocks, **$B = 2$** ($C/b = 8/4 = 2$)



Cache with Larger Block Size



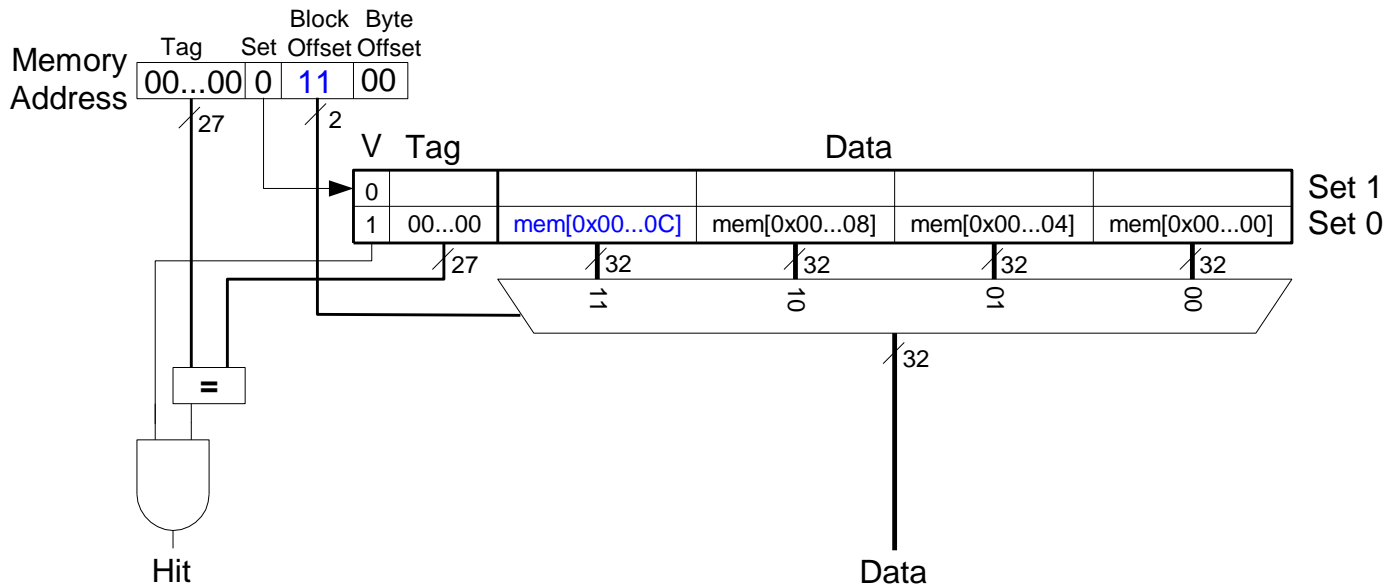
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Cache Perf. with Spatial Locality

```
      addi s0, zero, 5
      addi s1, zero, 0
LOOP: beq  s0, zero, DONE
      lw   s2, 4(s1)
      lw   s3, 12(s1)
      lw   s4, 8(s1)
      addi s0, s0, -1
      j    LOOP
DONE:
```

Miss Rate



Types of Misses

- **Compulsory:** first time data accessed
- **Capacity:** cache too small to hold all data of interest
- **Conflict:** data of interest maps to same location in cache

Miss penalty: time it takes to retrieve a block from lower level of hierarchy

Cache Organization Recap

- **Capacity:** C
- **Block size:** b
- **Number of blocks in cache:** $B = C/b$
- **Number of blocks in a set:** N
- **Number of sets:** $S = B/N$

Organization	Number of Ways (N)	Number of Sets ($S = B/N$)
Direct Mapped	1	B
N-Way Set Associative	$1 < N < B$	B / N
Fully Associative	B	1

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Cache Replacement Policy

Replacement Policy

- Cache is too small to hold all data of interest at once
- If cache full: program accesses data X and evicts data Y
- **Capacity miss** when access Y again
- How to choose Y to minimize chance of needing it again?
 - **Least recently used (LRU) replacement**: the least recently used block in a set evicted

LRU Replacement

RISC-V assembly

```
lw s1, 0x04(zero)
```

```
lw s2, 0x24(zero)
```

```
lw s3, 0x54(zero)
```

Way 1				Way 0			
V	U	Tag	Data	V	Tag	Data	
0	0			0			Set 3 (11)
0	0			0			Set 2 (10)
0	0			0			Set 1 (01)
0	0			0			Set 0 (00)

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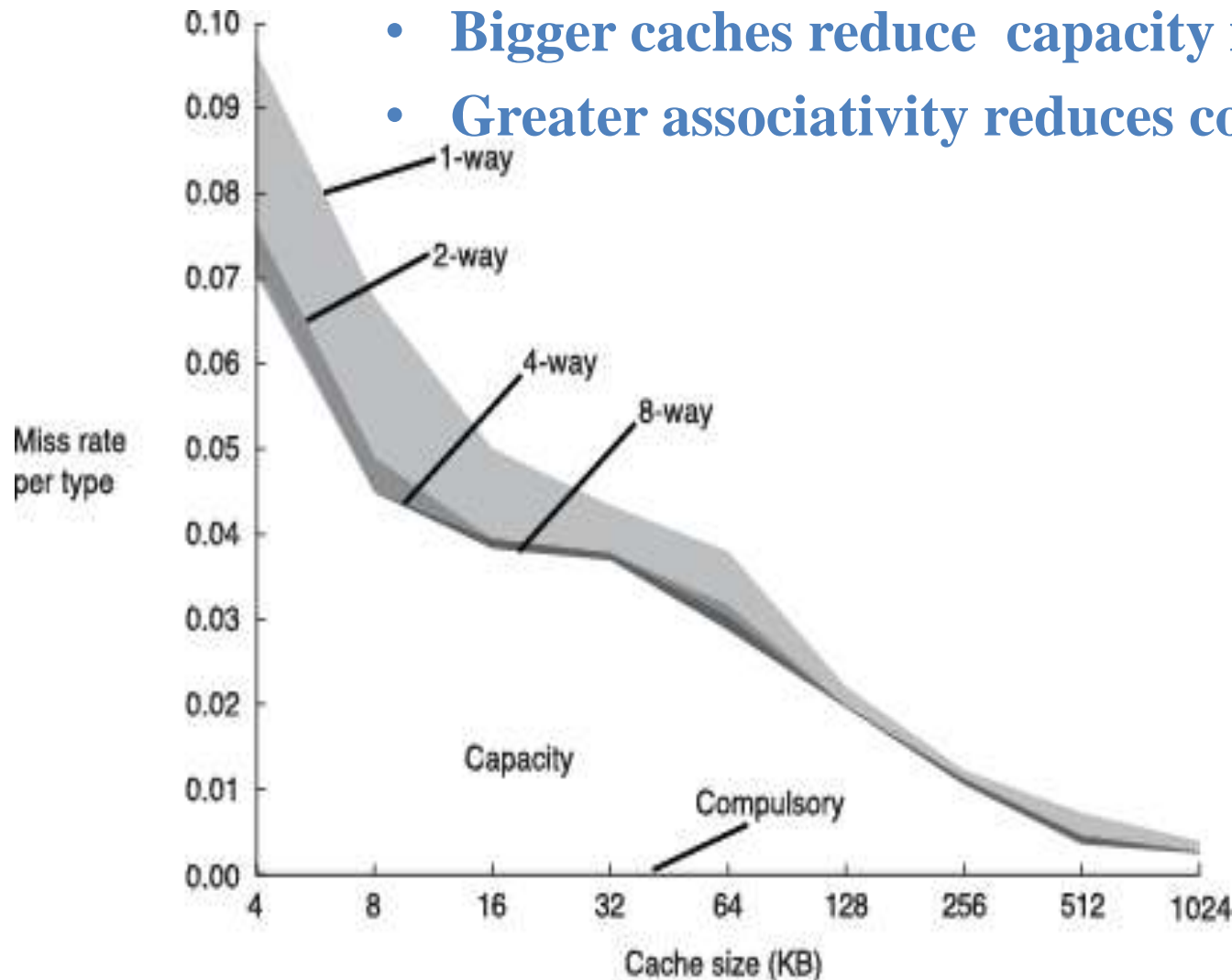
Cache Summary

Cache Summary

- **What data is held in the cache?**
 - Recently used data (temporal locality)
 - Nearby data (spatial locality)
- **How is data found?**
 - Set is determined by address of data
 - Word within block also determined by address
 - In associative caches, data could be in one of several ways
- **What data is replaced?**
 - Least-recently used way in the set

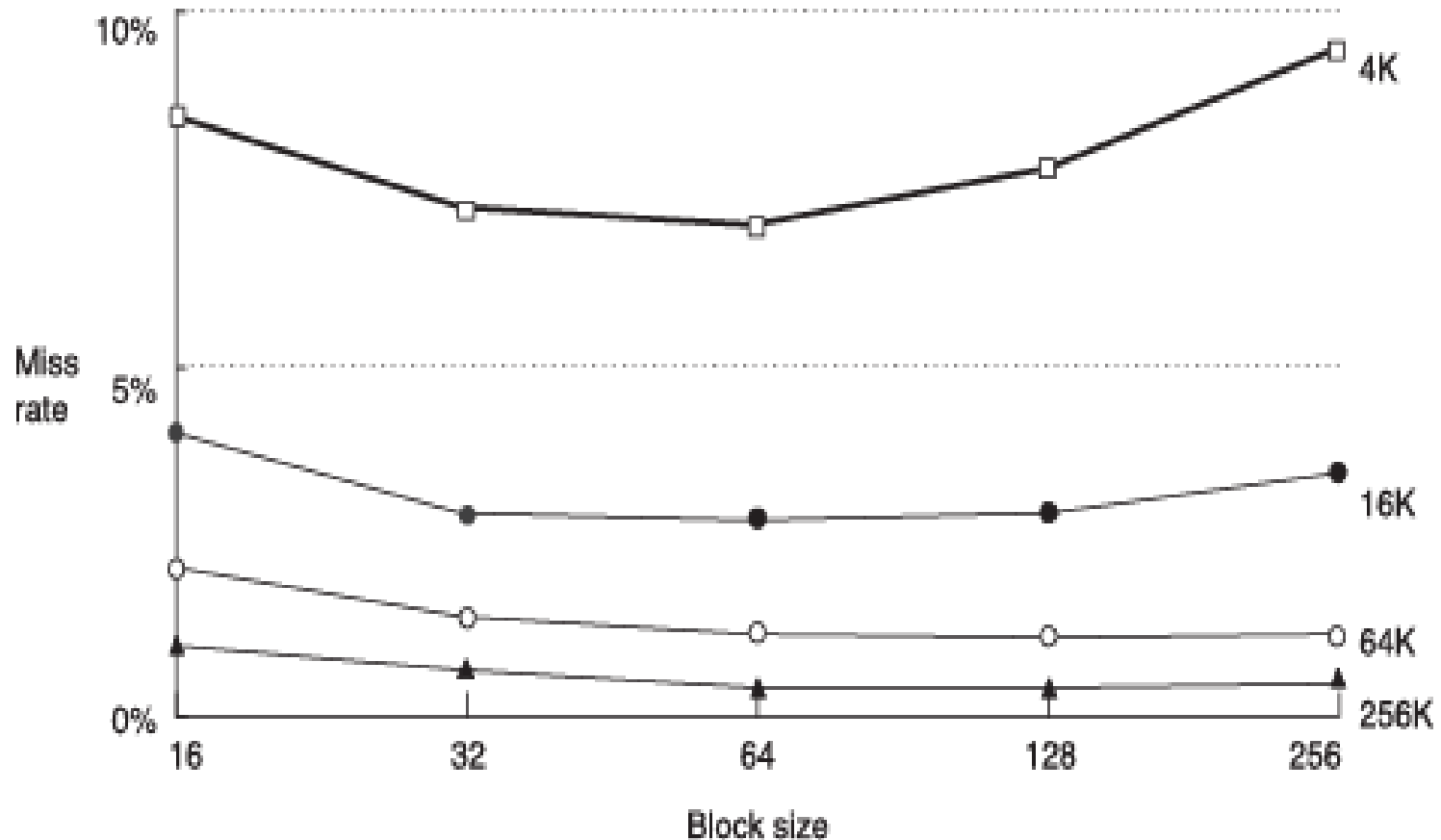
Miss Rate Trends

- Bigger caches reduce capacity misses
- Greater associativity reduces conflict misses



Adapted from Patterson & Hennessy, *Computer Architecture: A Quantitative Approach*, 2011

Miss Rate Trends

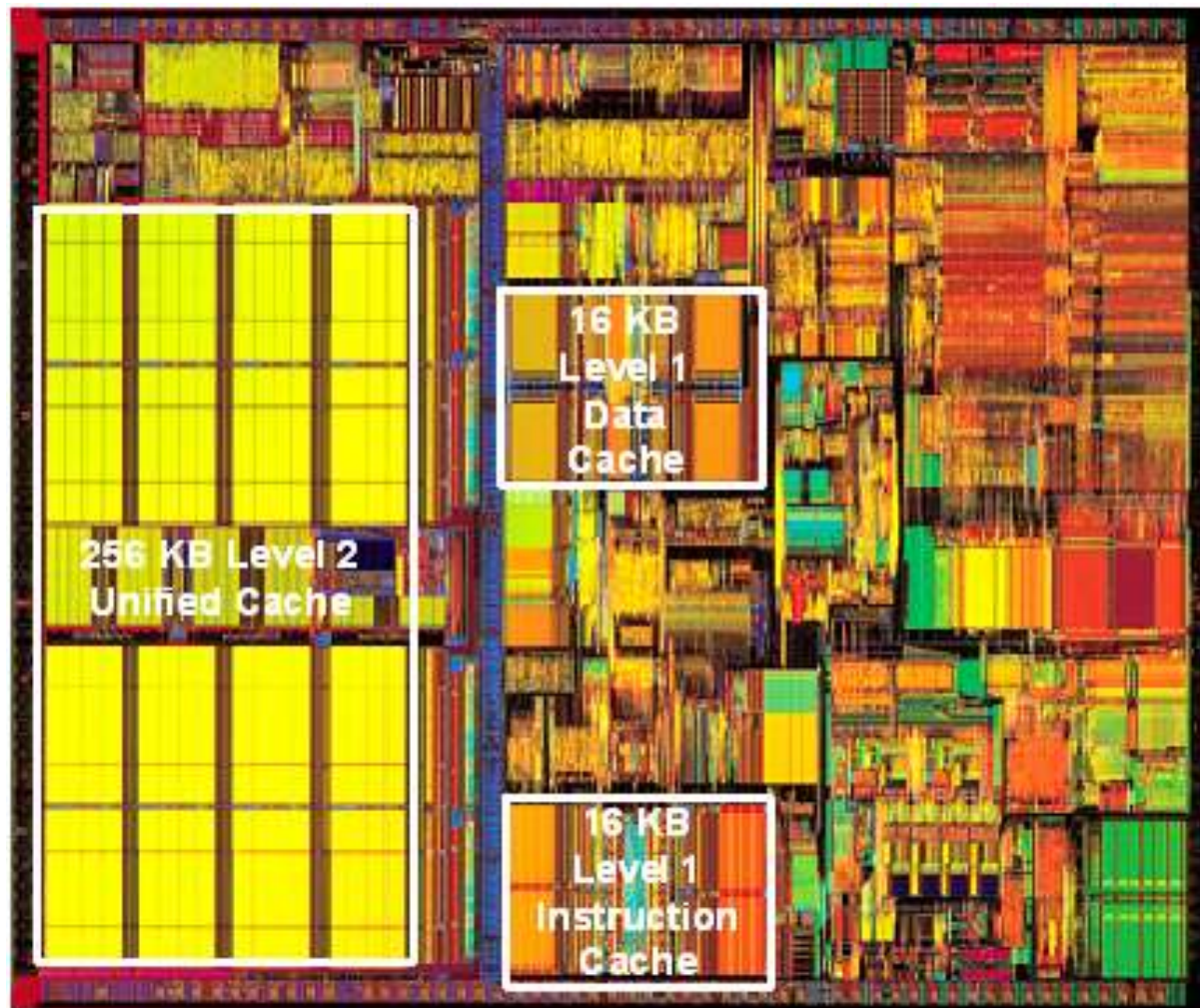


- Bigger blocks reduce compulsory misses
- Bigger blocks increase conflict misses

Multilevel Caches

- Larger caches have lower miss rates, longer access times
- Expand memory hierarchy to multiple levels of caches
- Level 1: small and fast (e.g. 16 KB, 1 cycle)
- Level 2: larger and slower (e.g. 256 KB, 2-6 cycles)
- Most modern PCs have L1, L2, and L3 cache

Intel Pentium III Die



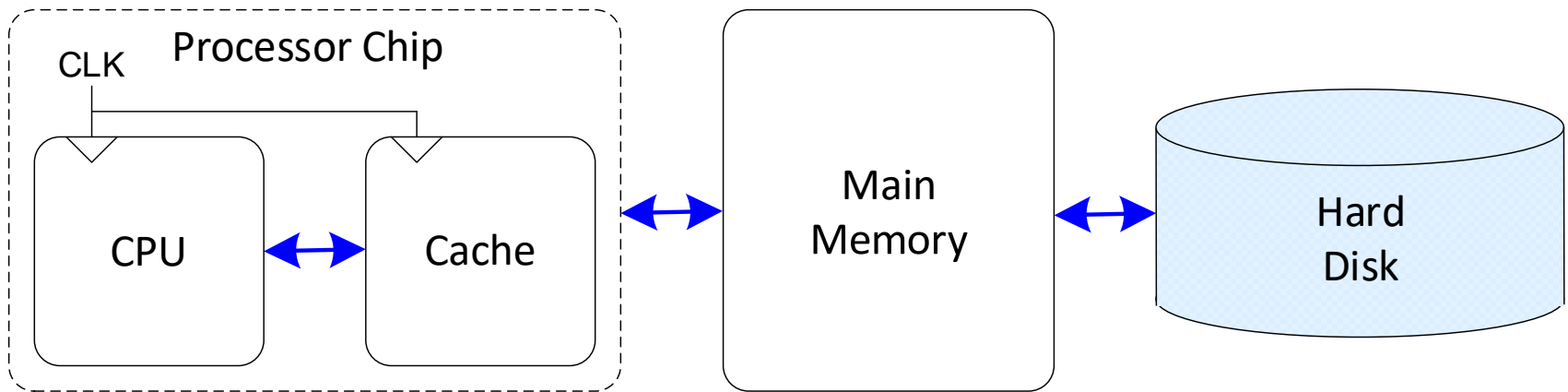
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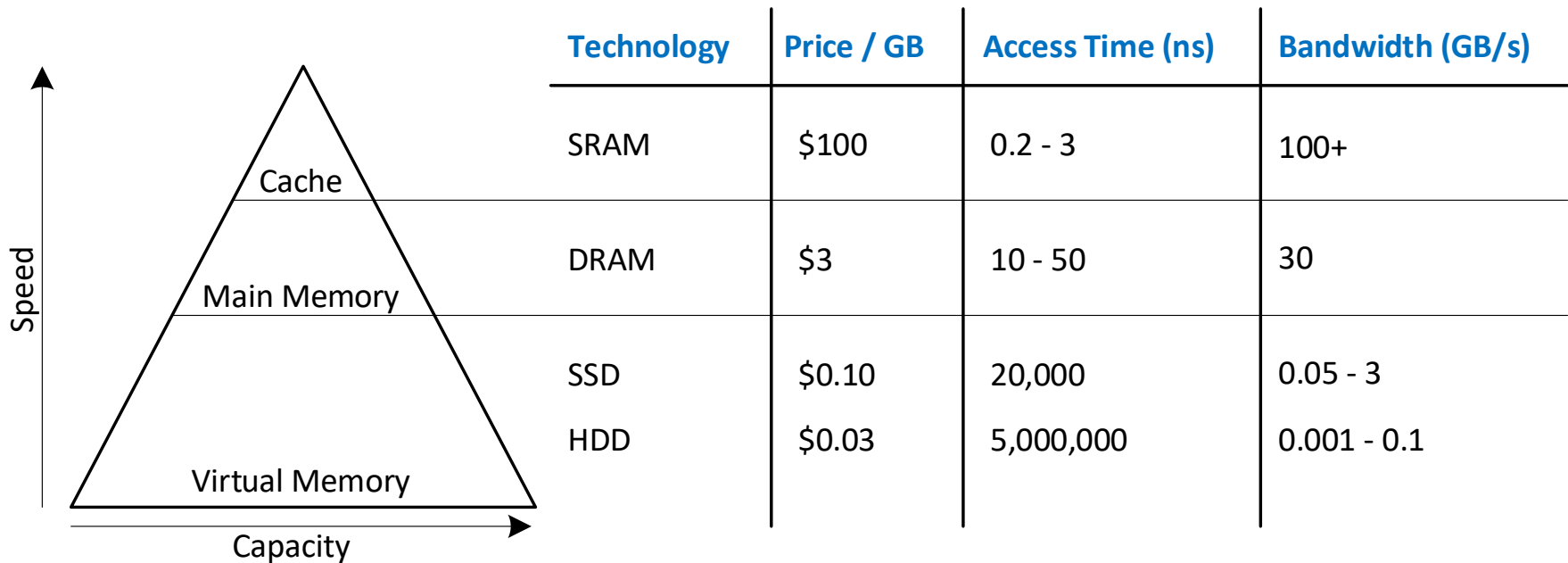
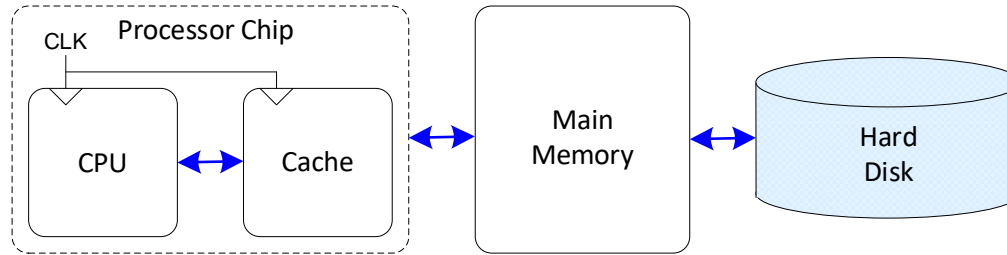
Virtual Memory

Virtual Memory

- Gives the illusion of bigger memory
- Main memory (DRAM) acts as cache for hard disk



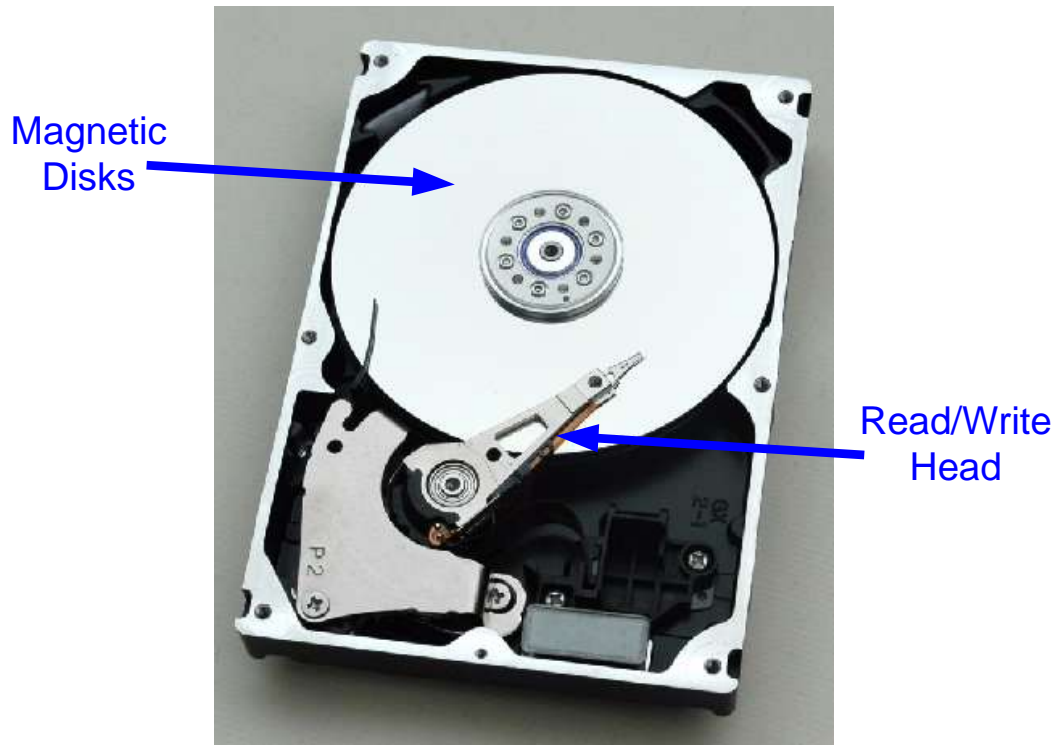
Memory Hierarchy



- **Physical Memory:** DRAM (Main Memory)
- **Virtual Memory:** Hard drive
 - Slow, Large, Cheap

Memory Hierarchy

Hard Disk Drive



Takes milliseconds to *seek* correct location on disk

Solid State Drive



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Virtual Memory

- **Virtual addresses**
 - Programs use virtual addresses
 - Entire virtual address space stored on a hard drive
 - Subset of virtual address data in DRAM
 - CPU translates virtual addresses into *physical addresses* (DRAM addresses)
 - Data not in DRAM fetched from hard drive

Virtual Memory

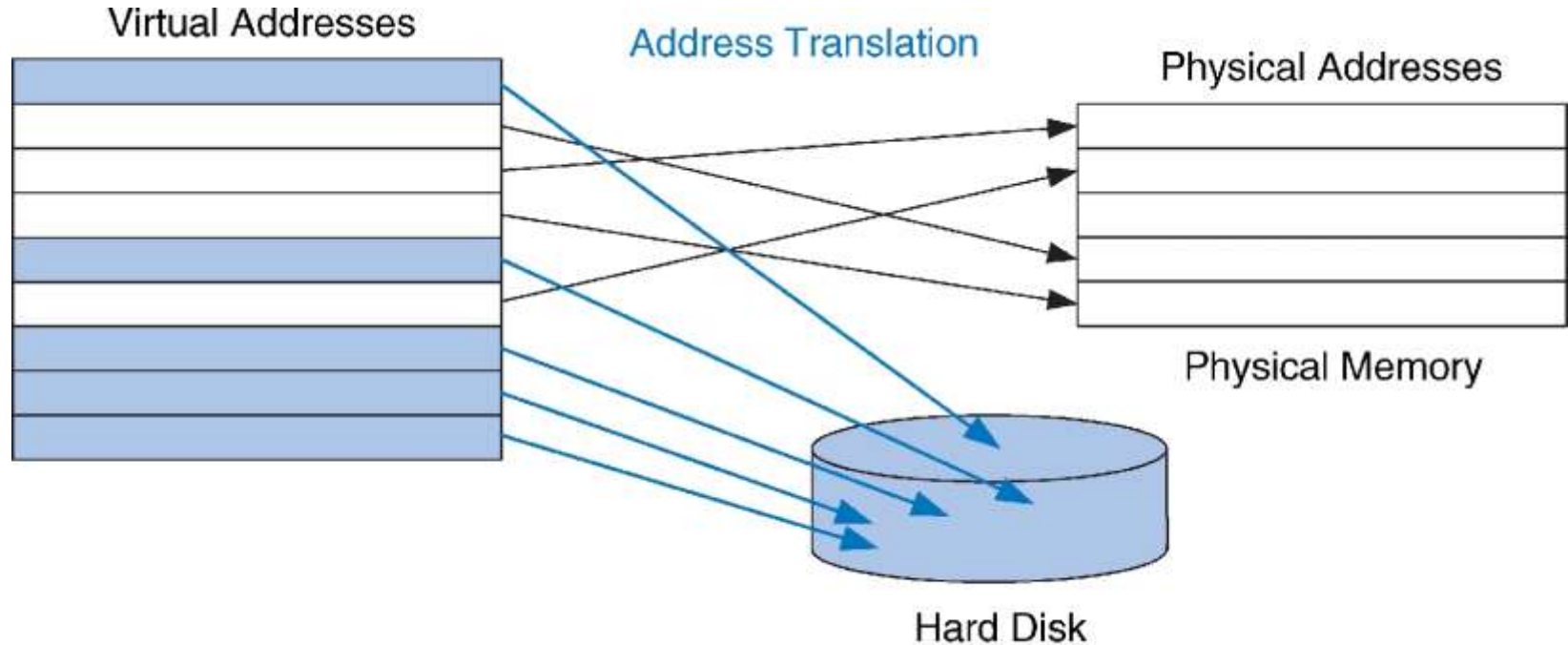
Cache	Virtual Memory
Block	Page
Block Size	Page Size
Block Offset	Page Offset
Miss	Page Fault
Tag	Virtual Page Number

Physical memory acts as cache for virtual memory

Virtual Memory Definitions

- **Page size:** amount of memory transferred from hard disk to DRAM at once
- **Address translation:** determining physical address from virtual address
- **Page table:** lookup table used to translate virtual addresses to physical addresses

Virtual Memory Definitions



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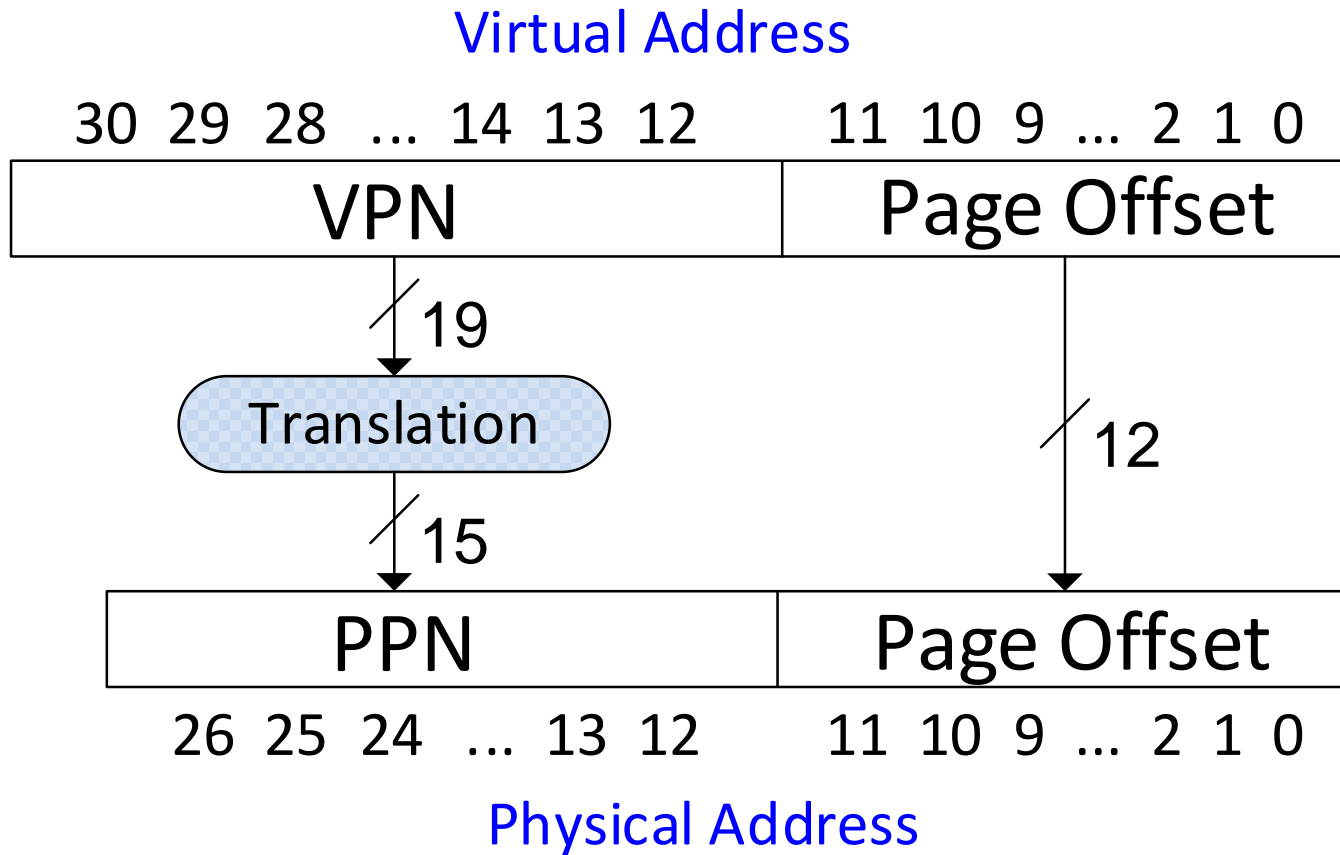
Most accesses hit in physical memory

But programs have the **large capacity** of virtual memory

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Address Translation

Address Translation

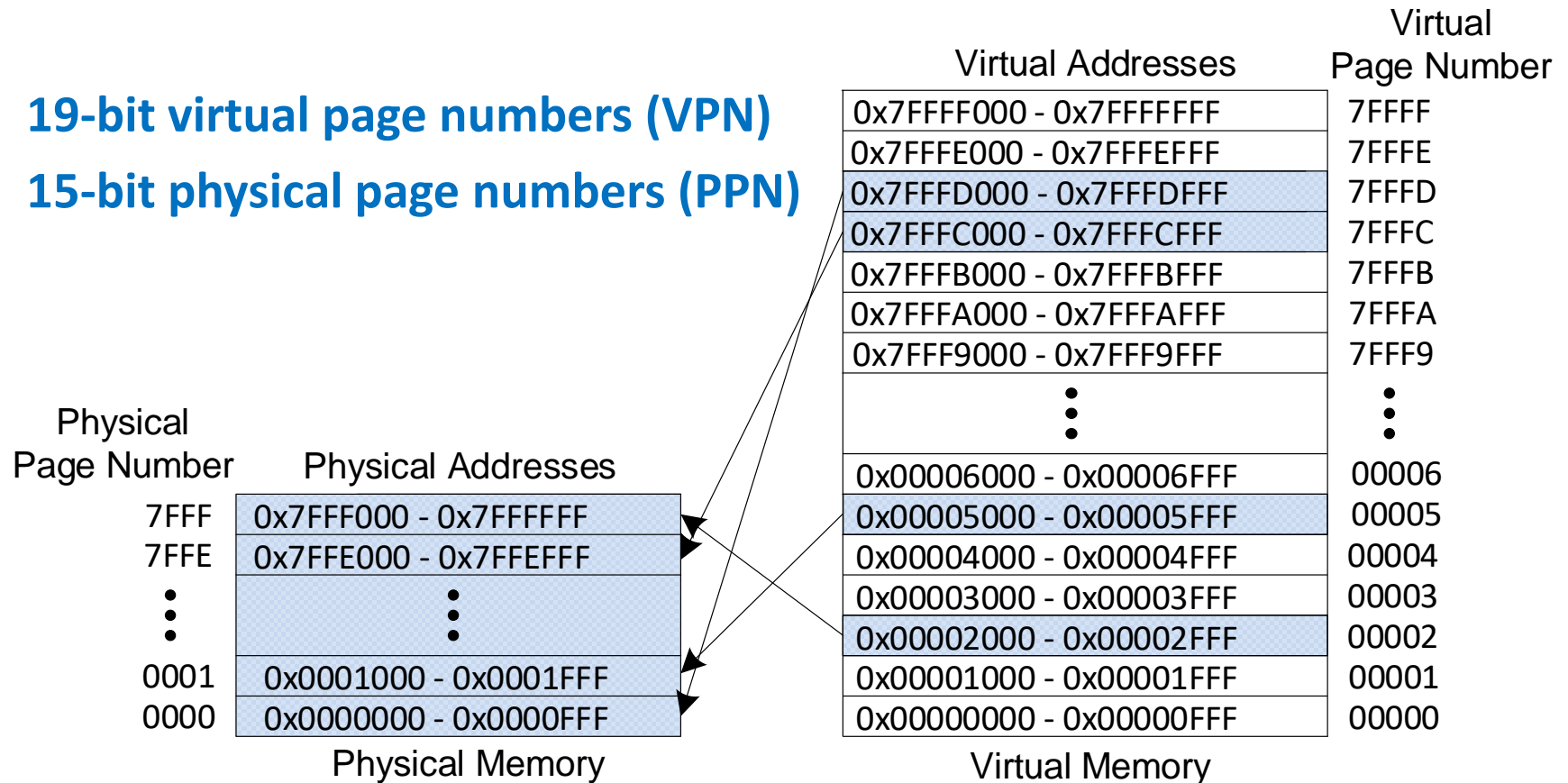


Virtual Memory Example

- **System:**
 - Virtual memory size: 2 GB = 2^{31} bytes
 - Physical memory size: 128 MB = 2^{27} bytes
 - Page size: 4 KB = 2^{12} bytes

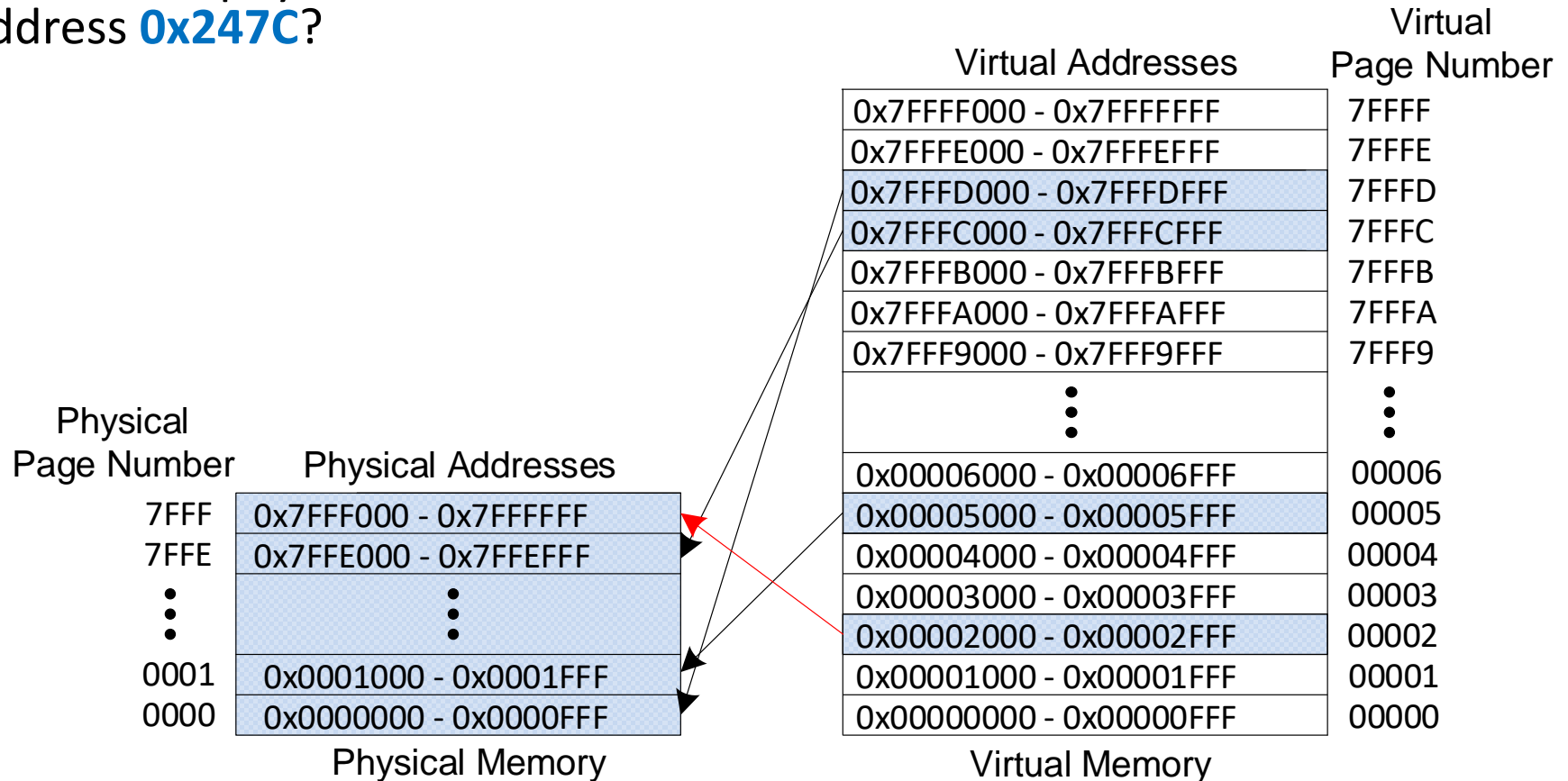
Virtual Memory Example

- 19-bit virtual page numbers (VPN)
- 15-bit physical page numbers (PPN)



Virtual Memory Example

What is the physical address of virtual address **0x247C**?



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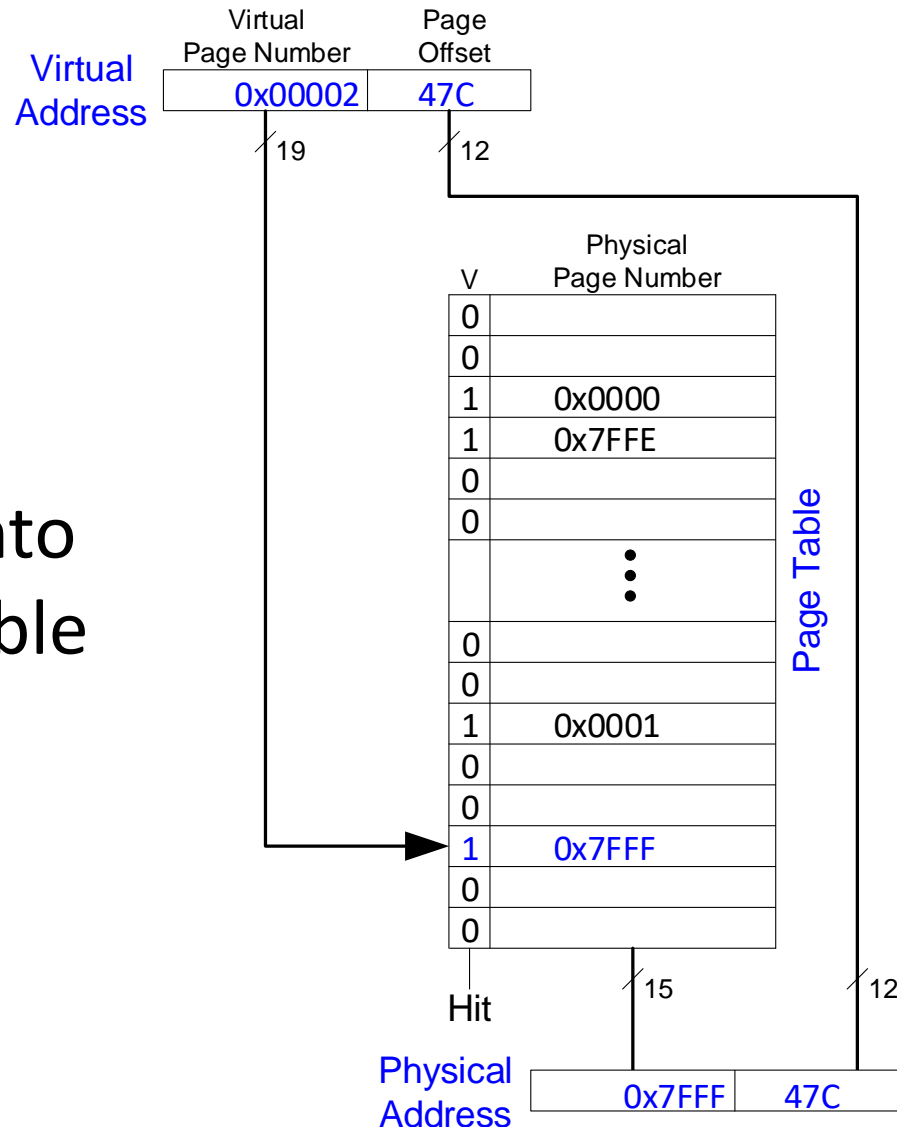
Page Table

How to Perform Translation

- **Page table**
 - Entry for each virtual page
 - Entry fields:
 - **Valid bit:** 1 if page in physical memory
 - **Physical page number:** where the page is located

Page Table Example

VPN is
index into
page table



Page Table Example 1

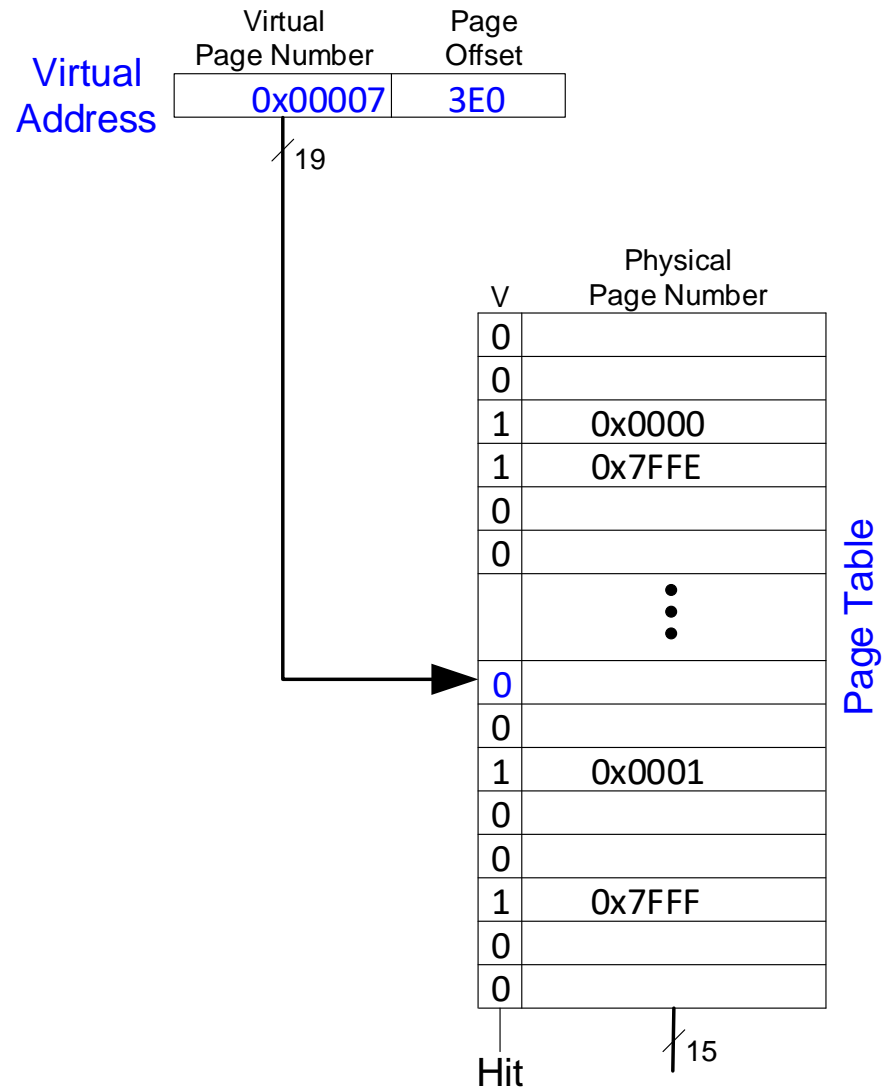
What is the physical address of virtual address **0x5F20**?

V	Physical Page Number	Virtual Page Number
0		7FFFF
0		7FFFE
1	0x0000	7FFFD
1	0x7FFE	7FFFC
0		7FFFB
0		7FFFA
	⋮	⋮
0		00007
0		00006
1	0x0001	00005
0		00004
0		00003
1	0x7FFF	00002
0		00001
0		00000

Page Table

Page Table Example 2

What is the physical address of virtual address **0x73E4**?



Page Table Challenges

- Page table is **large**
 - usually located in physical memory
- Load/store requires **2 main memory accesses**:
 - one for translation (page table read)
 - one to access data (after translation)
- Cuts memory performance in half
 - *Unless we get clever...*

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Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)

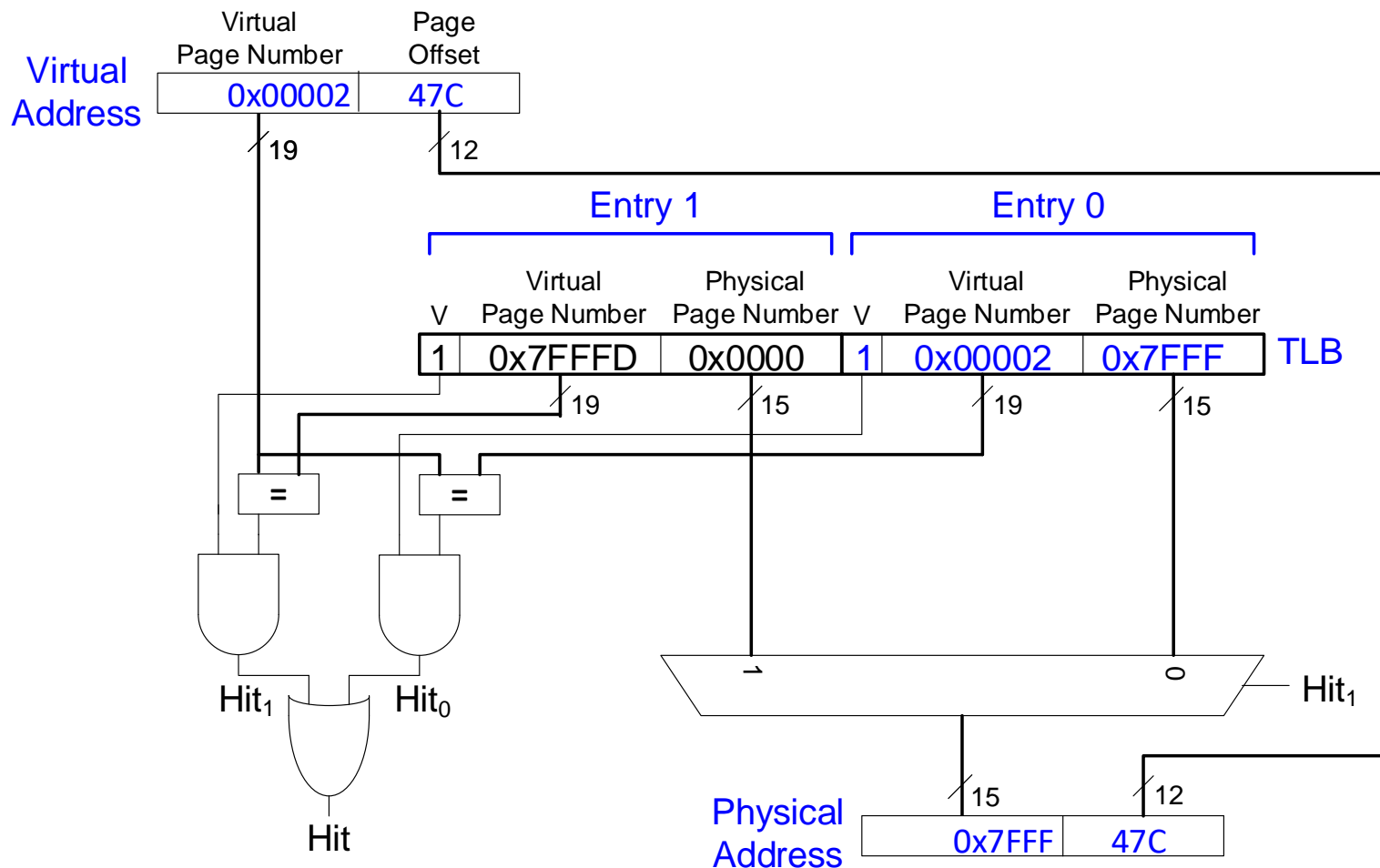
Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)

- Small cache of most recent translations
- Reduces number of memory accesses for *most* loads/stores from 2 to **1**

TLB

- **Page table accesses:** high temporal locality
 - Large page size, so consecutive loads/stores likely to access same page
- **TLB**
 - **Small:** accessed in < 1 cycle
 - Typically **16 - 512 entries**
 - **Fully associative**
 - **> 99%** hit rates typical
 - **Reduces number of memory accesses** for most loads/stores from 2 to 1

Example: 2-entry TLB



Chapter 8: Memory Systems

Virtual Memory Summary

Memory Protection

- **Multiple processes** (programs) run at once
- Each process has its **own page table**
- Each process can use **entire virtual address space**
- A process can only access a **subset of physical pages**: those mapped in its own page table

Virtual Memory Summary

- Virtual memory increases **capacity**
- A subset of virtual pages in physical memory
- **Page table** maps virtual pages to physical pages – address translation
- A **TLB** speeds up address translation
- Different page tables for different programs provides **memory protection**

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